

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02503 191630Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 /018 W
-----191634Z 009954 /46

O 191601Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2733

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2503

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR PFOR SY US
SUBJ: ASAD'S MEETING WITH CARTER

REF: STATE 84674

1. ASAD ILYAS WAS BORN IN VILLAGE NEAR JENIN. HE IS IN HIS MID-FIFTIES AND GRADUATED FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL. HE WORKED IN PTT IN PALESTINE DURING MANDATE AND EMIGRATED TO SYRIA IN 1948. HE WORKED FOR RADIO DAMASCUS AS DIRECTOR OF TRANSLATION SECTION PRIOR TO HIS TRANSFER TO SIMILAR POST AT PRIME MINISTRY UNDER DR YUSUF ZUAYYIN. BETWEEN PRES ASAD'S COUP IN NOV 1970 AND HIS FORMAL ELECTION TO PRESIDENCY IN 1971, ILYAS WORKED UNDER ASAD AND SUCCEEDED TO EXTENT THAT PRES TRANSFERRED ENTIRE TRANSLATION SECTION TO PRESIDENCY FOLLOWING ELECTION. ILYAS IS HARDWORKING, REPORTEDLY LOYAL AIDE WHO PUTS IN GURELING HOURS AT HIS JOB. HE IS GREEK ORTHODOX, IS MARRIED AND HAS CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS FLUENT ARABIC AND ENGLISH PLUS SOME FRENCH. HIS CURRENT POST AT THE PRESIDENCY IS PRESS COUNSELOR.

2. KHALIL SA'DAWI WAS BORN IN SYRIA BUT HIS FAMILY WAS OF MAGHREBIAN ORIGIN. HE SPECIALIZED IN PROTOCOL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS SHIFTED TO SIMILAR RESPONSIBILITY AT PRIME MINISTRY AND BECAME DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL AT PRESIDENCY AFTER PRES ASAD TOOK POWER. HE CONSIDERED APOLITICAL, ENERGETIC AND NEAR RETIREMENT. HE HAS NO NON-PROTOCOL FUNCTIONS.
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HE SPEAKS FLUENT ARABIC, SOME FRENCH, NO ENGLISH. ASAD LIKES HIM AND HAS KEPT HIM PROTOCOL DIRECTOR DESPITE HIS LIMITATIONS. AT PUBLIC GATHERINGS SA'DAWI INVARIABLY REMAINS NEAR ASUGRUI DISCHARGE HIS DUTIES.
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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